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DULVERTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1949.

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

TO THE

CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

OF THE

DULVERTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you my report on the health of the Dulverton Rural District during the year 1949.

The headings are those formulated by the Ministry of Health.

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Chairman :-

Mr .C .H .Abbot ,The Cottage ,Dulverton .

Vice-Chairman :-

Mr .J .S .W .Arthur ,Coppleham ,Winsford .

Mr .W .Perry .	Sir R .Waley-Cohen .
Mr .R .B .Vellacott .	Mr .C .J .Purchase .
The Hon .Mrs .Herbert .	Mr .F .T .Barrow .
Mrs .Yandle .	Major J .L .Lindsay .
Mr .A .B .Smallridge .	Mr .C .F .Avery .
Col .E .R .Clayton .	Mr .A .J .Ayre .
Mr .I .J .Kemp .	Mr .J .F .Clatworthy .
Miss M .W .P .Aston .	Mr .F .H .Beer .
Mr .P .Bawden .	Mr .F .Partridge .

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CLERK TO THE COUNCIL :-

R .W .Halse ,Esq .,Solicitor .

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY :-

(a) Part-time M.O.H .:-

G .Nicholson ,M .D .,D .P .H .,F .R .S .S .,E .,

District M.O . and Public Vaccinator :Dr .B .W .Mc .Kinney .

(b) Surveyor & Inspector ,etc ., :-

H .A .Jewell ,A .R .San .I .,M .Inst .S .E .,M .Inst .R .D .Surveyors ,
Diploma University S .W .(Meat .)

Assistant Inspector :-

G .O .Jones ,Cert R .San I .,

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STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres.....	78,159
Population, 1949 (estimated)	4,600
Inhabited Houses.....	1,360
Number of inhabited houses as per rate books.....	1,380
Number of Families or separate occupiers.....	1,380
Ratable value (reduced)	£ 19,050
Sum produced by 1d rate.....	£73

SPECIAL CONDITIONS.

Good. The vast majority of the inhabitants are engaged in agricultural pursuits; they appear to be exceptionally healthy in consequence.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1949.

	TOTAL	M.	F.		
Live Births.	(Legitimate) 72	37	35	Birth	
	(Illegitimate) .. 4	1	3) Rate =	16.5
Deaths.....	56	23	33	Death	
Still Births.....	Nil	~	~) Rate =	12.8
				(Corrected Death Rate	9.6)

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER AGE OF ONE YEAR.

	TOTAL	M.	F.
Legitimate.....	Nil	~	~
Illegitimate.....	1	1	~
Deaths from Measles.....	Nil	~	~
Deaths from Whooping Cough.....	Nil	~	~
Deaths from Diarrhoea .. (Under 2 years)	Nil	~	~
Number of women dying of or in consequence of childbirth.....	Nil		

The statistics for England and Wales were Rate per 1,000 of the population:-

Births - Live Births.....	16.7
Births - Still Births.....	0.39
Deaths.....	11.7
Death Rate per 1,000 births..... (under age of 1 year)	32.00

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

See Sanitary Inspector's Report.

There are 11 certified T.T. dairies in the district and the standard of the samples obtained from them have been satisfactory.

Samples for tubercle bacilli were taken at regular intervals from different parts of the district and all were reported free from infection.

The examination of milk for tubercle bacilli is carried out at the County Laboratory.

ADULTERATION.

The Council are not a Local Authority for enforcing the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928.

Chemical and Bacteriological Examinations of Foodstuffs are submitted to the County Laboratory at Taunton.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER
DISEASES.

During 1949 Dulverton District had cases of Notifiable Disease other than Tuberculosis.

VACCINATIONS.

Vaccinations carried out by the M.O.H. during 1949 - Nil.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS).

	<u>Total cases notified.</u>	<u>Cases admitted to hospital.</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>
Small Pox.....	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever.....	1	-	-
Diphtheria.....	-	-	-
Measles.....	24	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	1	-	-
Whooping Cough.....	4	-	-
Pneumonia.....	9	-	-
Other Diseases notifiable locally e.g. Chicken Pox.....	-	-	-
Erysipelas.....	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyolitis.....	1	1	-

Pneumonia-Of the cases of the above:-

0 - 5 years.....	3 cases.
5 - 15 years.....	- cases
15 - 45 years.....	3 cases.
45 - 75 years.....	3 cases.
	<u>9 cases.</u>

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No action was taken.

HOUSING.

The Jury Road scheme for 34 houses with roads and sewers is now completed. Four new cottages have been erected at Bridgetown.

Licences issued for the building by private enterprise numbered one.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

IN THE AREA.

1. Nursing in the Home.

(a) Nursing is provided by the Somerset District Nursing Association. There is no co-ordination with the Sanitary Authority.
(b) Infectious Diseases. No provision.

2. Midwives.

None employed or subsidised by the Local Authority.
Number of midwives practising in the area - 6.

3. Arrangements for the carrying out of Pathological and Bacteriological
Investigation Analysis of Foodstuffs, etc., are made with the Somerset County
Laboratory.

4. Hospitals.

There are no hospitals of any description within the Area. Hospital recommenda-
tion for Infectious Diseases - No change.

5. Maternity and Nursing Homes.
No action has been taken under the Nursing Home Act of 1927.
6. Cases of Maternal Mortality and Puerperal Pyrexia are investigated by the County Authority.
7. Institutional Provision for the care of Mental Defectives - None in the Area.
8. Diphtheria Immunizations and Vaccinations Procedure administered by County Council and carried out at a clinic or by the local doctors at their surgeries.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. Water Supply.
To date nine of the largest villages have main supply.
Samples were taken by the Sanitary Inspector in various parishes during the year, and the results of these are set out in his Report.
Work on a new scheme for the village of Exford is completed.
2. Drainage.
Dulverton, Brushford and Exford have modern works.
Winsford will be sewered as soon as circumstances permit.
3. Rivers and Streams Pollution.
No action was considered necessary.
4. Closet Accommodation.
Improvements in the scattered cottages are constantly being made and every encouragement is given to owners to do this.
5. Sanitary.
(1) Kingsbrampton, Dulverton, Exford, Withypool and Brushford are the only schools having flush lavatories. Exton, however, has a piped water supply.
There is still room for improvement in the sanitary arrangements to the remainder.
(2) Public Cleansing. See Sanitary Inspector's Report.
(3) Sanitary Inspection of the Area. See Sanitary Inspector's Report.
(4) Eradication of Bedbugs. No action has been required up to the present.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New cases during 1940.				Mortality.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
40	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
55	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
70	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	4	2	-	-	3	-	-	-

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925. No action.
Public Health Act, 1925 (Section 62). No action taken.

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My thanks are due to Mr. Jewell for his assistance in compiling this report.

I have the honour to be,
Your Obedient Servant,
GEORGE NICHOLSON, M.O.H.

• *and that the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.*

1949.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

To the Chairman and Members of the Dulverton Rural District Council:-

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report for the period from 1st January to 31st December (inclusive), 1949 in accordance with Article 19(12) of the Sanitary Officers Order, 1922.

The work of the Authority continues to increase, and even with the help of a qualified assistant employed on a temporary basis, difficulty is experienced in carrying out all the duties required in an efficient manner. Travelling in a scattered district of 79,000 acres occupies much valuable time, but this is unavoidable.

A general survey of all dwellings in the district is almost complete. The results to date show that many are in need of repair, but owing to licensing difficulties it is apparent these will become even less fit and a further survey be necessary at a later date when repair facilities become more normal.

NUISANCES AND COMPLAINTS.

Defective Cess Pits.....	8
Offensive Accumulation.....	3
Fouled Watercourses.....	4
Dirty Premises.....	11
Bad or Suspected Water Supply.....	40
Overcrowding.....	12
Animals kept in unfit places.....	11
Defective Sanitary Conveniences.....	10
Housing Complaints.....	263
Miscellaneous.....	70
Sewage and Drainage.....	50
Total.....	482

Other than cowsheds.

In addition to those mentioned under Housing Defects.

269 visits were made in connection with these and all were remedied without the necessity of issuing Statutory Notices.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

1. Meat. All slaughterhouses in the district are now closed, slaughtering being done in the Central Abattoir at Minehead, but regular inspections are made of meat arriving at the Butcher Shops.

RECORD OF INSPECTIONS.

2. Routine Visits.....	40
Occasional Slaughtering.....	Nil

MEAT UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

	Whole	Fore	Hind					
	Carcase.	Quarter.	Quarters.	Head.	Livers.	Lungs.	Heart.	Spleen.
ovines.	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
calves.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
pigs.	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
sheep.	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
	-	2	3	-	3	-	-	-

Milk.

Details of Inspection for the past year are set out as follows:-

Cowsheds and Dairy Visits.....	40
Attention was drawn to the following:-	
Defective Floors.....	26
Defective Drainage.....	30
Linewashing.....	29
Dirty Floors.....	18
Fouled Approach Yards.....	7
Total.....	<u>110</u>

Water supplies to most of the cowsheds constitutes a problem, especially as the occupier and not the owner is responsible for improvement. Until the Milk and Dairies Orders are amended to make all improvements in this connection the duty of the Landlord, I am afraid the progress will be slow in this and other work in connection with the cowsheds, but at the same time every effort has been made by my Council to carry out their duties under the Act.

Since October 1st the Ministry of Agriculture was responsible for all inspections of Dairy Farms and it will be interesting to see what improvements, if any, will be made under the new arrangements.

Samples for Graded and T.T. milk are being taken by the Somerset County Council now.

Number of Producers.....	190
Number of Distributors on the Register divided as follows:-	
(a) Distributors.....	0
(b) Distributors who are also Producers.....	190

WATER SUPPLY.

All main water schemes under the control of my Council are visited at least once weekly. The scheme for Exford has been completed and working satisfactorily as also is the Southill scheme which supplies Dulverton and Brushford.

A scheme for Huish Champflower has been prepared for submission to the Minister.

SCAVENGING.

The Council make regular collections of house refuse throughout the district, all of which is taken to a central incinerator at Dulverton. There are no dumps.

HOUSING.

The rate of progress on new housing during the year has been satisfactory. To date 42 new houses have been completed at Dulverton.

4 at Bridgetown.

8 at Exford making a total of 54.

Another twenty are in course of construction.

SEWERAGE DISPOSAL AND DRAINAGE.

Main works are installed at Dulverton, Brushford and Exford and it is hoped in the future to submit schemes for Winsford, Withypool and Brompton Regis.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

At the request of the Medical Officer of Health enquiries into all cases of Infectious Diseases were at once carried out.

Number of Premises visited.....	6
Number of Rooms Disinfected.....	6

PETROLEUM ACTS.

Petroleum Licences granted during the year.....	47
Amount collected.....	£21. 0. 0d.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS FOR THE YEAR.

Housing Inspections,.....	1117
Housing re-inspections.....	290
Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.....	40
Cowsheds and Dairies.....	57
Factories and Workshops.....	8
Infectious Diseases.....	8
Visits in connection with Nuisances and Complaints.....	70
Visits in connection with Rats and Mice.....	150
Miscellaneous Visits.....	51
(a) Water Sampling.....	25
(b) Water supplies and Sewerage Disposal, etc.....	290
Total.....	<u>2106</u>

CONCLUSION.

I desire once again to express my thanks to the Chairman, Councillors and Medical Officer for their consideration and support given to me during the past year, also to the Clerk and his staff for their co-operation in the work of this department.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

HORACE A. JEWELL.

Surveyor & Inspector.

Dulverton,
Somerset.

January 1950.

